



Oxford Read and Discover

# Wild Weather

Jacqueline Martin

Read and discover all about different types of weather ...

- What is a hurricane?
- Where is the coldest place on Earth?

Read and discover more about the world! This series of non-fiction readers provides interesting and educational content, with activities and project work.

Series Editor: Hazel Geatches

Audio CD Pack available

Word count for this reader: 3,397



**Level 3**  
600 headwords



**Level 5**  
900 headwords



**Level 4**  
750 headwords



**Level 6**  
1,050 headwords

Cover photograph: Jim Reed Photography (Tornado/Jim Reed Photography)

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

[www.oup.com/elt](http://www.oup.com/elt)



OXFORD ENGLISH  
ISBN 978-0-19-404400-1





Oxford Read and Discover

A dramatic photograph of a stormy sky. A massive, dark, swirling cloud formation dominates the upper two-thirds of the frame. A bright pink lightning bolt strikes down from the right side of the clouds. The horizon is a flat, dark line, and the sky just above it is a bright orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The foreground is a dark, flat field.

# Wild Weather





# Wild Weather

Jacqueline Martin

## Contents

Introduction	3
1 What Is Weather?	4
2 World Weather	8
3 All About Clouds	12
4 Here Comes the Rain	16
5 Cold Weather	20
6 Hot Weather	24
7 Windy Weather	28
8 In the Future	32
Activities	36
Projects	52
Glossary	54
About <i>Read and Discover</i>	56



# OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi  
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi  
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in

Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France  
Greece Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal  
Singapore South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey  
Ukraine Vietnam

OXFORD and OXFORD ENGLISH are registered trade marks of Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

© Oxford University Press 2010

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published 2010

2014 2013 2012 2011 2010

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

## No unauthorized photocopying

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent to the ELT Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

Any websites referred to in this publication are in the public domain and their addresses are provided by Oxford University Press for information only. Oxford University Press disclaims any responsibility for the content

ISBN: 978 0 19 464498 3

An Audio CD Pack containing this book and a CD is also available, ISBN 978 0 19 464538 6

The CD has a choice of American and British English recordings of the complete text.

An accompanying Activity Book is also available, ISBN 978 0 19 464508 9

Printed in China

This book is printed on paper from certified and well-managed sources.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Illustrations by:* Kelly Kennedy pp.5, 9, 15, 17, 22, 31; Ian Moores pp.4, 8, 10, 15, 16, 32, 38; Dusan Pavlic/Beehive Illustration pp.36, 44; Alan Rowe pp.36, 44.

*The Publishers would also like to thank the following for their kind permission to reproduce photographs and other copyright material:* Alamy pp.12 (Jason Smalley/Wildspace/stratus, A.T.Willett/cumulus, FB Rose/imagebroker/cirrus), 13 (Andrzej Gorzkowski Photography), 26 (Andrew McConnell), 35 (Charles Crust/Danita Delimont, Agent/solar panels); Corbis pp.7 (Staffan Widstrand), 9 (Fridmar Damm), 19 (Jayanta Shaw/Reuters), 20 (Galen Rowell/Latitude ), 22 (Visuals Unlimited), 30 (Jim Reed Photography), 35 (Hashimoto Noburu/Corbis Sygma/solar boat); Getty Images pp.11 (Alan Copson/Photographer's Choice), 18 (Sebastian D'Souza/AFP), 27 (Peter Turner/Stone); Oxford University Press pp.3, 5, 6, 14, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 34; Photolibrary p.21 (Mark Cassino/Superstock); Science Photo Library p.17 (Simon Fraser); Still Pictures p.33 (Biosphoto/Vernay Pierre/Polar Lys).

*With thanks to:* Ann Fullick for science checking



# Introduction

Wind, rain, cloud, and snow are all types of weather. Weather is different in different places around the world. In some places the weather is the same every day, and in other places it changes every hour. Weather can be calm or wild!

What are these types of weather called?

Do you know what places have these types of weather?

What types of weather are there where you live?



Now read and discover more about different types of weather!



# 1

# What Is Weather?

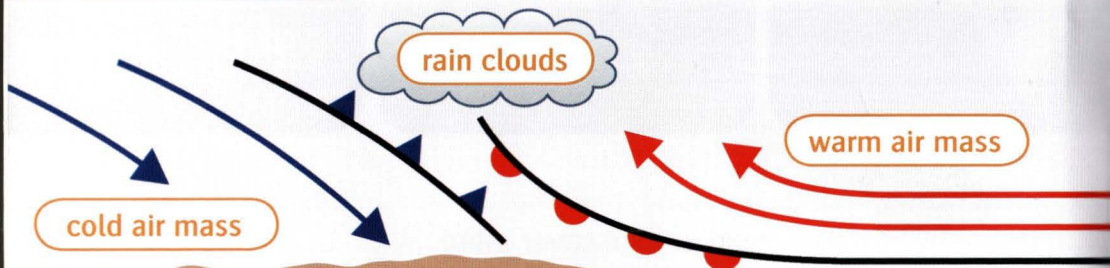
Around Earth, there is a blanket of air called the atmosphere. Weather is the different conditions in the atmosphere. What types of weather do you like?

## How Does Weather Happen?

Most of the weather on Earth happens because of two things – the sun, and air pressure. The sun heats some parts of Earth more than others, so air is warmer in some places and cooler in others. Areas of warm or cold air, called air masses, move around and bring different types of weather. When two masses meet, the weather changes.

You can't feel it, but the air is pushing down on you. This is called air pressure. Air pressure can change. Low air pressure brings rain and wind. High air pressure brings clear skies, which means hot, sunny days in summer, but cold days in winter.

### Air Masses Meeting



## Knowing About the Weather

We need to know about the weather so that we can build the right type of homes, wear the right clothes, and travel at the right time. If people on ships and planes know about the weather, they can avoid bad storms. If farmers know about the weather, they can plant and cut down crops at the right time.

In 1992, weather forecasters warned people in the USA that Hurricane Andrew was coming. Sadly, 54 people died, but lots of people survived.



In the past, the Chippewa Indians in North America thought that the sun was in a bag all winter. They believed that every spring, a mouse bit a hole in the bag and the sun came out!







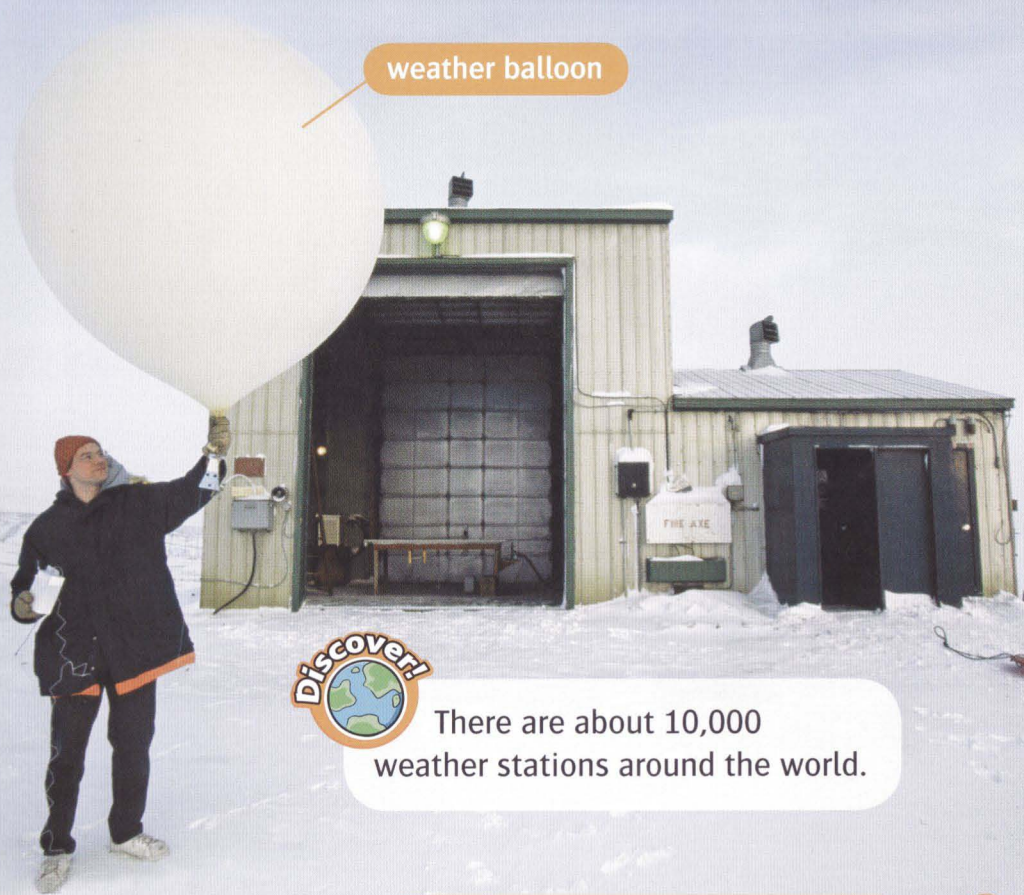
## Predicting the Weather

A good way to predict the weather is to look at the types of cloud in the sky. Today, scientists use computers to predict the weather, but in the past, people watched nature. They watched what happened to plants, animals, the moon, or the stars. Many people still do this.

Some people think that cows or sheep can predict the weather. They think that if animals sit down, it will rain. People also believe that a red sky at night means good weather the next day, but a red sky in the morning means bad weather.

Many years ago, scientists flew in hot-air balloons to measure the weather. Today, they collect information from weather stations, weather planes, weather balloons, and satellites, to understand what the weather will do. Millions of measurements are taken every day. The information helps scientists to predict the weather.

## A Weather Station



weather balloon



There are about 10,000 weather stations around the world.



Go to pages 36–37 for activities.






Weather can be very different around the world depending on the climate and the landscape. The climate is the usual weather for a place. The landscape is what the land is like.

## Weather and Climate

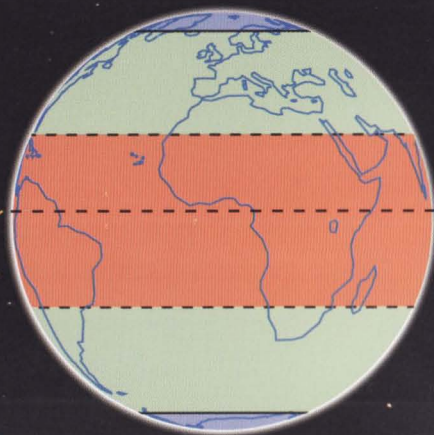
Weather can change, but climates stay the same most of the time. There are different types of climate because of the sun. The sun shines most strongly on the middle of Earth, called the equator. Places near the equator have hot climates with lots of hot, sunny weather. Places far from the equator have cold climates with cold, snowy weather. Places in between have temperate climates, where the weather is mild.

### Earth's Climates

#### Climates

-  temperate
-  hot
-  cold

equator



sun

## Adapting to Climate

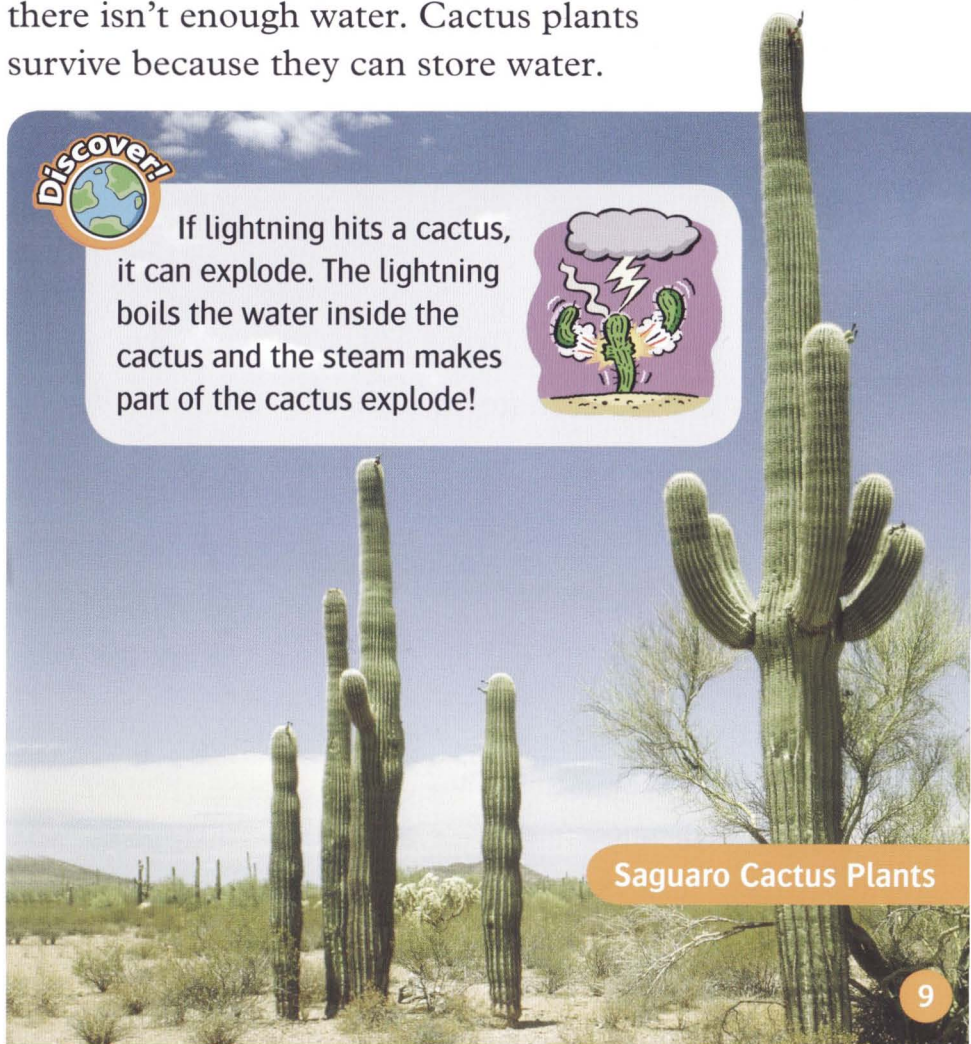
Different things live and grow in different climates. Plants and animals adapt to where they live, for example, animals in cold climates often have thick coats to keep them warm.

Only plants with short roots can grow in cold climates because the ground is frozen for most of the year.

Very few plants can grow in deserts because there isn't enough water. Cactus plants survive because they can store water.



If lightning hits a cactus, it can explode. The lightning boils the water inside the cactus and the steam makes part of the cactus explode!



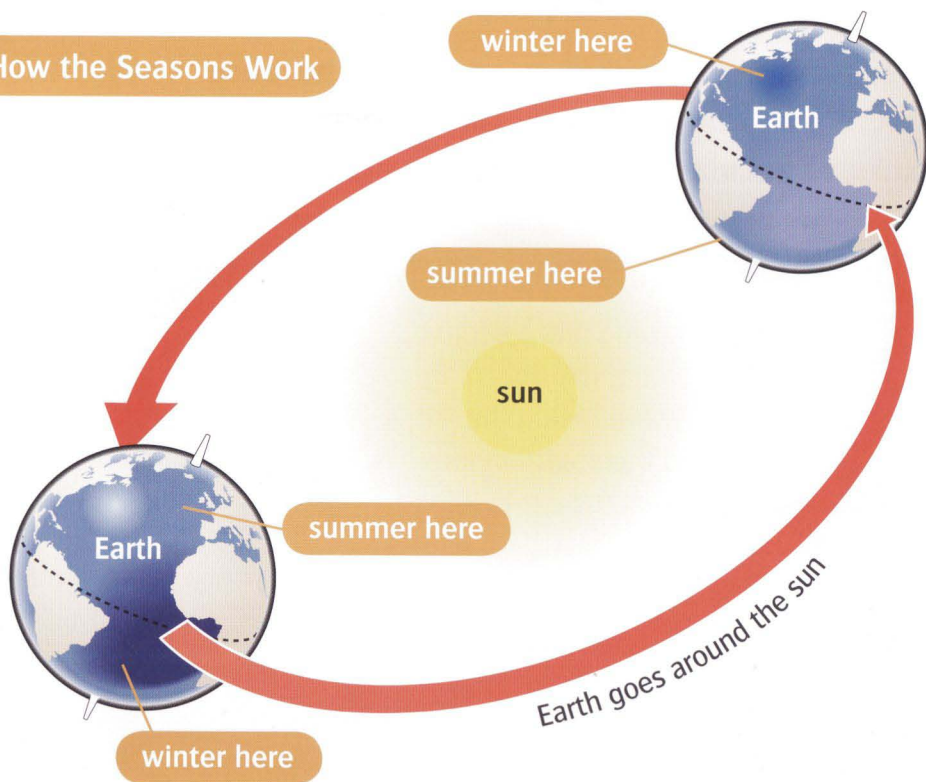
Saguaro Cactus Plants



## Weather and Seasons

Earth goes around the sun. For some of the year, one half of Earth is nearer the sun, so it has warmer weather called summer. At the same time, the other half is away from the sun, so it has colder weather called winter. This is how the seasons work.

### How the Seasons Work



Most places have summer and winter, but in temperate climates there are also seasons called spring and fall, when the weather isn't as hot as summer or as cold as winter. Places near the equator are usually hot, but they have wet and dry seasons.

## Weather and Landscape

The weather of a place can change depending on the landscape. If you climb a mountain, the air gets about 6 degrees centigrade ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) colder every 1,000 meters that you climb. So there can be snow at the top of a mountain near the equator!

Land gets warm faster than the ocean, so in summer, inland places are warmer than places near the ocean. Inland places cool down faster, too, so they are colder in winter.

The Plains in Arizona, USA



Plains have some of the hottest weather. They have hot summers, and cold, dry winters because they are far from the ocean and they can be protected by mountains, too.



Go to pages 38–39 for activities.





# All About Clouds

Clouds look light, but even a small cloud can be as heavy as 100 elephants! Every cloud is made of millions of tiny drops of water.

## Cloud Shapes

There are many cloud shapes, but they all come from three types of cloud. If we look at the type of cloud in the sky, this can help us to predict the weather.

Stratus clouds are low, thin blankets of cloud. These can bring light rain. Cumulus clouds usually bring good weather, but if they get too big or low they can change into cumulonimbus clouds – and that means storms! Cirrus clouds form high in the sky. They are made of ice crystals and they often mean that bad weather is coming.



stratus clouds



cumulus clouds



cirrus clouds

## Mist and Fog

At night the ground cools down and it also cools the air above it. When the air gets cold, the water in it can turn into mist. Mist is like a very thin cloud.

Fog is like mist, but it's a thicker cloud that forms nearer the ground. It's very hard to see in fog and you can easily get lost, so it can be dangerous. Driving in fog is also dangerous, but cars have special fog lights to help other drivers to see them.



## Storm Clouds

When hot air rises on a hot day, it can change into storm clouds. In a storm, strong winds make the tiny drops of water inside clouds hit each other, and this makes electricity. The electricity moves between the cloud and the ground, and it makes very bright flashes of light called lightning. Lightning is about 30,000 degrees centigrade! Lightning heats the air around it, and the air moves away very fast and makes a loud noise called thunder. There are about 40,000 thunderstorms every day!



Light travels faster than sound, so you see lightning before you hear thunder. Count the seconds between lightning and thunder. If you count three seconds, the storm is a kilometer away.

A Thunderstorm

## Lightning Facts!

There are many different types of lightning. Forked lightning and zigzag lightning are the most common, but there are also sheet lightning and rocket lightning.

forked  
lightning



zigzag  
lightning



sheet  
lightning



rocket  
lightning



About 100 lightning flashes happen every second on Earth, but most of them don't hit the ground. Lightning usually hits tall things like trees and buildings. The Empire State Building in New York in the USA is hit by lightning about 100 times every year. Lightning doesn't usually hit people, but a park ranger in Virginia in the USA has been hit seven times!



Lightning is almost six times hotter than the sun. It can even melt rock!



Go to pages 40–41 for activities.



# 4

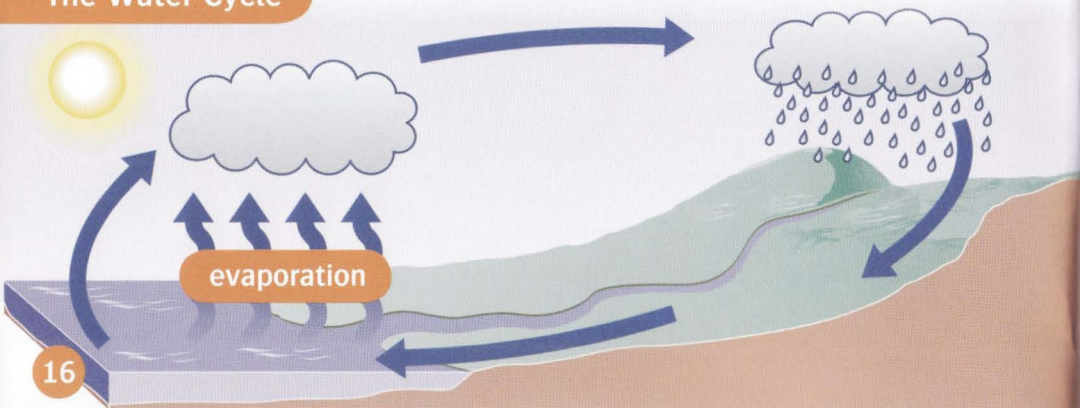
## Here Comes the Rain

People, animals, and plants all need water. Enough rain falls every day for 100 baths for every person on Earth! Sadly, some people don't have enough water because more rain falls in some places than others.

### What Is Rain?

Rain is water that falls from clouds onto the ground and into rivers, lakes, and oceans. When the sun heats the water, some of the water changes into a gas called water vapor. This is called evaporation. Water vapor rises into the sky where it cools and changes back into tiny drops of water that make clouds. The drops of water get bigger and then they fall as rain. Rainwater goes into rivers, rivers go into lakes and oceans, and the process starts again. This is called the water cycle.

#### The Water Cycle





## Rainbows

When there is rain and sun at the same time, raindrops break light from the sun into different colors and we see a rainbow. There are seven different colors in a rainbow – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Sometimes you can see two or more rainbows in the sky at the same time. You can only see a rainbow if you are between the sun and the rain.

Have you ever seen a rainbow at night? Rainbows made in the light from the moon are called moonbows!



If you see a rainbow from a plane, it will look like a circle.





## Monsoon Rain in Mumbai, India



## Monsoons

In tropical climates, where it's hot and wet, there are only two seasons. For half of the year, winds blow from the land to the ocean and there is a hot, dry season. For the other half of the year, winds blow from the ocean to the land and there is a long, wet season. When the winds change, and they blow from the ocean, it's called the monsoon. Monsoon winds bring heavy rain. People need monsoon rain for their crops to grow, but it can bring problems, too.



One of the wettest places on Earth is Cherrapunji in India. About 11.5 meters of rain falls there every year!

## Is Rain Good or Bad?

We need rain to help things grow, but if there is heavy rain, rivers sometimes overflow and make floods. Floods can happen anywhere, even in deserts. Floods can destroy buildings and crops, and they can kill animals and people. Floods can be good, too. The mud from a flood makes soil more fertile, so crops grow better.

In Bangladesh, there are floods after the monsoon almost every year. Bangladesh has the most fertile soil in the world!



A Flooded Village, Bangladesh



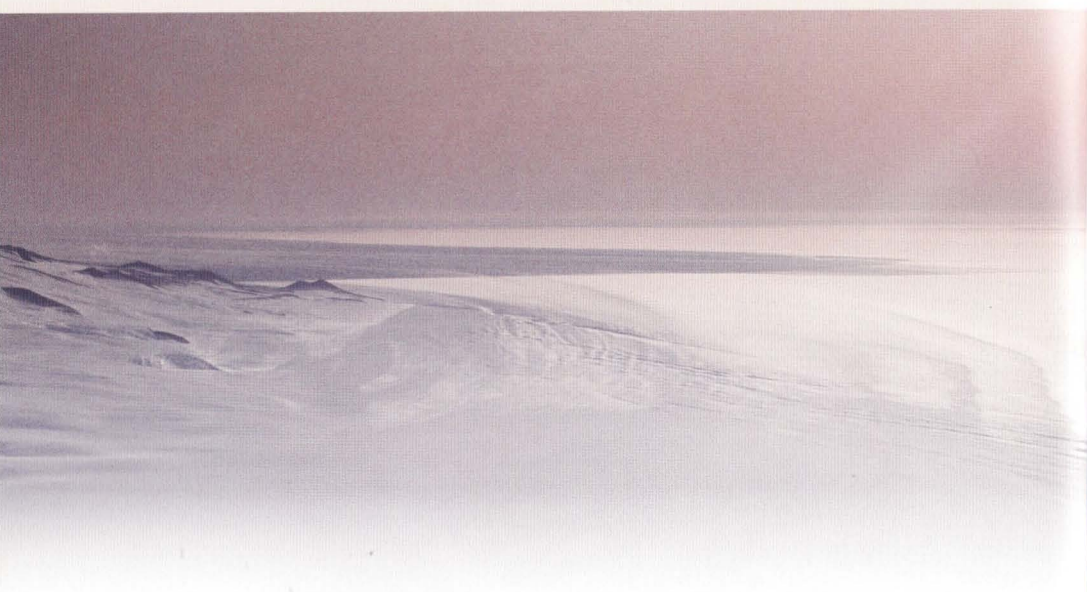
Go to pages 42–43 for activities.



# 5

## Cold Weather

About 11,000 years ago, more than 30% of Earth was covered in ice! Earth is warmer today, but we still have cold weather.



### Where Is It Cold?

The coldest climates on Earth are near the North and South Poles. Most of the ice there never melts. Some ice has been there for more than two million years!

The coldest place in the world is Vostok in Antarctica. The temperature there is usually about minus 57 degrees centigrade, but in 1987 it reached minus 89 degrees. That's the coldest temperature ever recorded!



## Snow and Sleet

When the air temperature is less than 0 degrees centigrade, water drops in the clouds change into ice crystals. As more drops freeze, the crystals get bigger. Then, as the crystals fall through the clouds, they hit each other and form snowflakes.

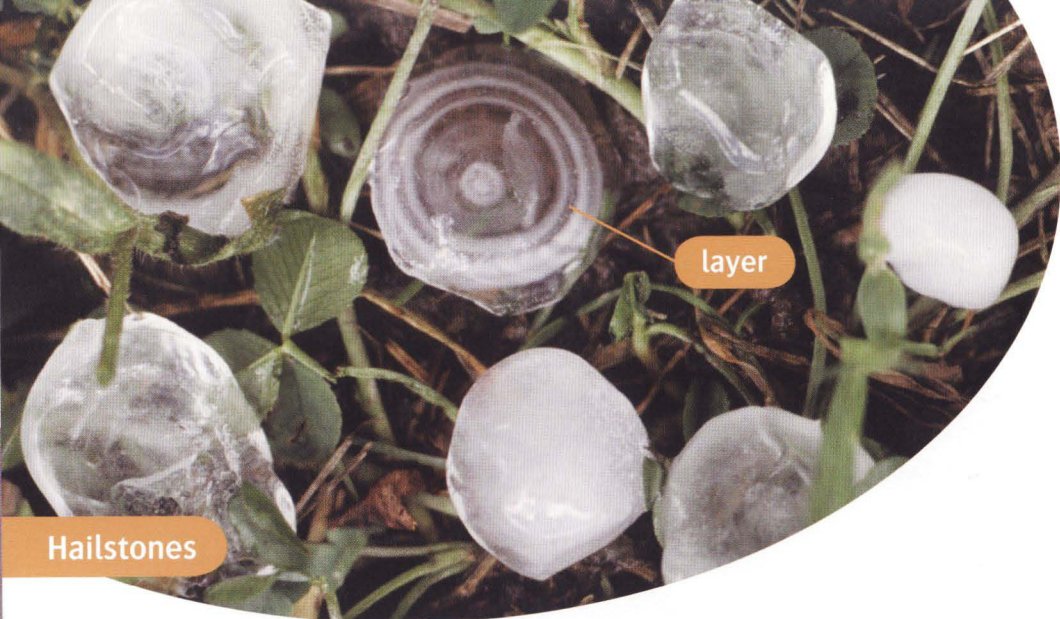
Snow can be fun, but it can make it difficult for people to travel. When it's cold, you must keep your hands, toes, and nose warm or they can go numb. If you get too cold you can get hypothermia – this is when your body is so cold that it stops working.

If the temperature near the ground is more than 0 degrees centigrade, snowflakes start to melt and they change into sleet. Sleet is a mixture of rain and snow.

Snowflakes



All snowflakes have six parts, but every one has a different pattern.



Hailstones

## Hail

When air rises and carries water drops up to where the air freezes, the drops freeze and form hailstones. Small hailstones start to fall, but they are pushed up again by more rising air, and another layer of ice forms on top of the hailstone. This keeps happening until the hailstones are heavier than the air, and then they fall to the ground. If you cut a hailstone in half, you can count how many times this happened by counting the layers of ice!



Most hailstones are very small, but the biggest hailstone ever recorded was almost 18 centimeters wide. That's as big as a soccer ball!





## Blizzards

A heavy snowstorm with icy winds and temperatures less than minus 12 degrees centigrade is called a blizzard. Blizzards can happen very quickly and the snow can cover buildings, cars, and trains. Power cables can fall down, leaving people in their homes with no electricity.

In a strong blizzard you can't see where the sky meets the ground. This is called a whiteout. In whiteouts, planes can crash and birds can fly into the ground!

Heavy snow can also make avalanches happen – this is when a lot of snow falls down mountains very quickly. Avalanches cover everything as they move.



A Strong Blizzard



Go to pages 44–45 for activities.



# 6

## Hot Weather

Weather is hottest in places near the equator because they are nearer the sun. Weather here can be hot and dry, or hot and wet. The highest temperature recorded was in Libya in 1922. It was 58 degrees centigrade!

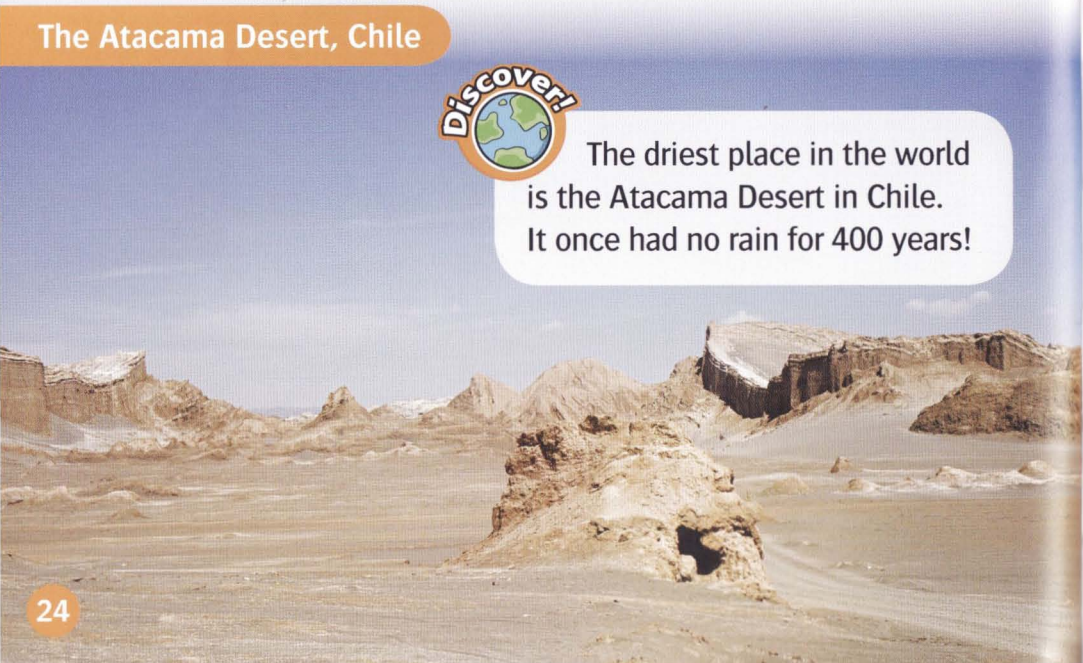
### Hot Deserts

Places with less than 25 centimeters of rain every year are called deserts. Deserts can be hot or cold, but they are almost always dry because the winds there blow from the land to the ocean. During the day, the skies are usually clear and sunny, but with no clouds to keep the heat in, the nights can be very cold!

#### The Atacama Desert, Chile



The driest place in the world is the Atacama Desert in Chile. It once had no rain for 400 years!



## Droughts and Fires

If rain doesn't fall for a long time, rivers and lakes can dry up. When this happens it's called a drought. Crops can't grow without water, so if there's a long drought, people don't have enough to eat and there can be a famine.

Hot sun can start fires. Fires can be a big problem in hot, dry countries because trees and other plants are dry. Forest fires are not always bad because they clear up dead leaves and help the soil. Some plants need strong heat for their seeds to grow!





A Sandstorm

## Sandstorms

When storm clouds form after a hot day in the desert, sandstorms can happen. Most sandstorms are not dangerous and they are only a few meters high, but sometimes strong winds blow the sand up to 3 kilometers in the air and carry it for thousands of kilometers. Big sandstorms can break rocks and they can last for three or more days! It's difficult to see and breathe in a sandstorm.



## Humid Weather

Hot places are not always dry. Hot places near water are often humid because air sucks up the water that evaporates from oceans and rivers. The amount of water vapor in the air is called its humidity.

In hot, humid weather your sweat can't evaporate, so you can't cool down. You must drink lots of water in hot weather. If your body gets too hot you can get heatstroke and be sick.



On a clear, humid day you can sometimes see the water vapor in the air – this is called a heat haze.

### A Heat Haze



Go to pages 46–47 for activities.



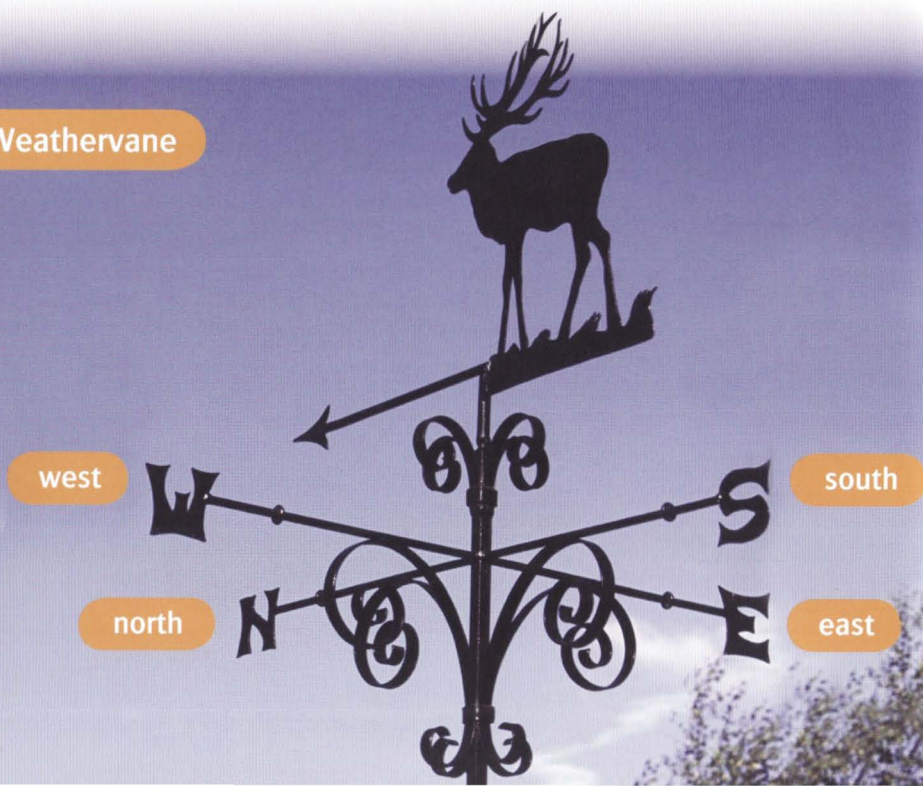
# Windy Weather

As Earth moves, air moves with it. Warm air rises and cool air takes its place. As air moves, the pressure changes. Air goes from the high pressure to the low pressure, and this makes wind.

## Types of Wind

Winds get their names from the direction that they blow from. For example, a north wind blows from north to south. We can see which direction a wind is blowing from by looking at a weathervane.

A Weathervane





A satellite photograph of a hurricane, showing a large, swirling cloud system over the ocean. The center of the storm is a dark, circular area. An orange line points from a label to this center.

eye

## Storm Winds

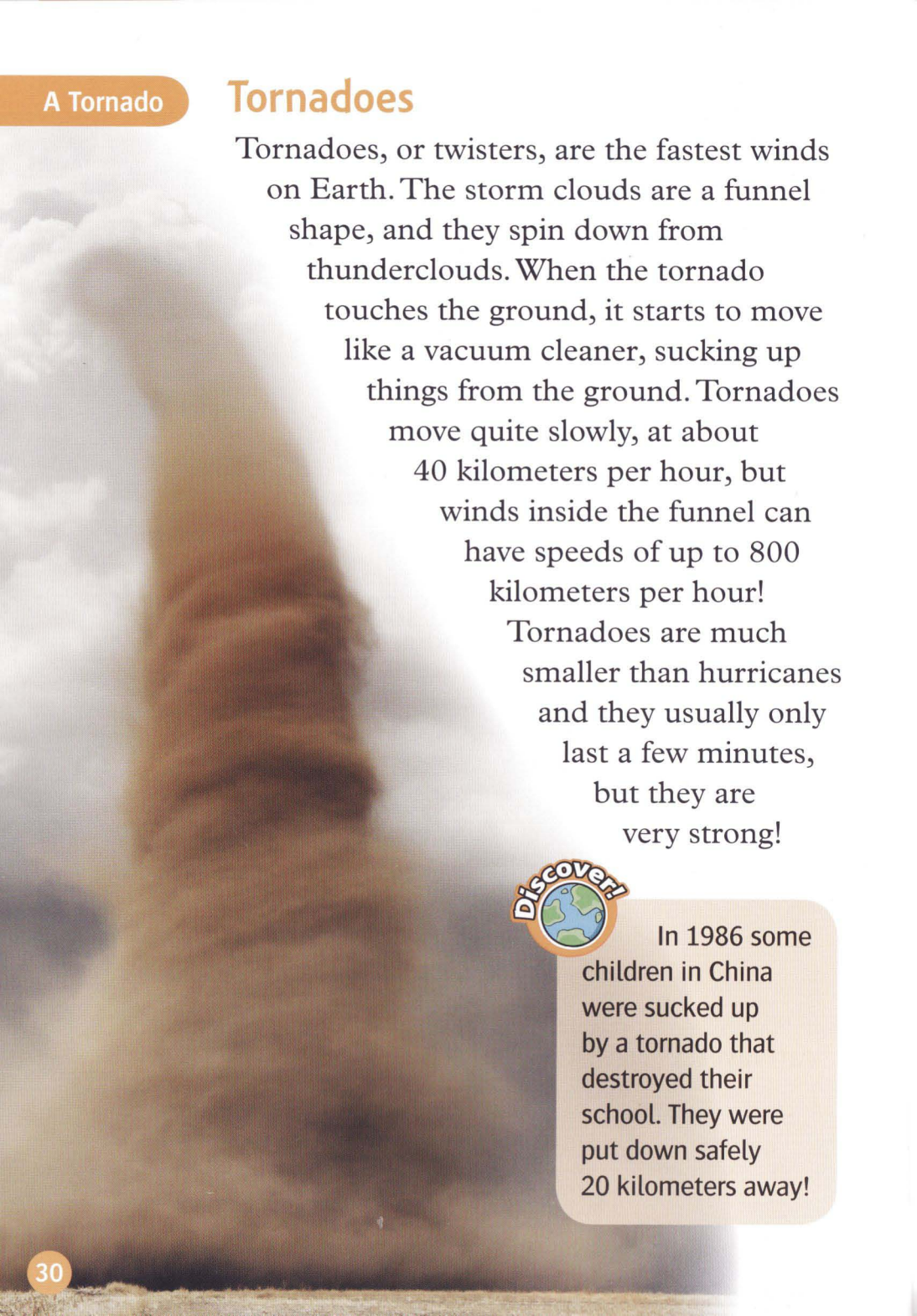
Storm winds are called hurricanes over the Atlantic Ocean, cyclones over the Indian Ocean, and typhoons over the Pacific Ocean.

A hurricane starts as a thunderstorm over the ocean. The warm, wet air rises quickly and as Earth moves, it makes the storm spin upward. The center of a hurricane is called the eye – here the weather is calm, but around it there is heavy rain, and winds of up to 350 kilometers per hour. It's difficult to predict where hurricanes will go because they can change speed and direction very quickly. Hurricanes can last for a week!



Since 1978, every hurricane has had a name.  
The strongest hurricane ever recorded is Hurricane Wilma.

## Tornadoes



Tornadoes, or twisters, are the fastest winds on Earth. The storm clouds are a funnel shape, and they spin down from thunderclouds. When the tornado touches the ground, it starts to move like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up things from the ground. Tornadoes move quite slowly, at about 40 kilometers per hour, but winds inside the funnel can have speeds of up to 800 kilometers per hour!

Tornadoes are much smaller than hurricanes and they usually only last a few minutes, but they are very strong!



In 1986 some children in China were sucked up by a tornado that destroyed their school. They were put down safely 20 kilometers away!



## Measuring the Wind

A British man called Francis Beaufort found a way to record the strength of the wind. This is called the Beaufort scale.

0



calm  
= 0 kph

1



light air  
= 3 kph

2



light breeze  
= 9 kph

3



gentle breeze  
= 15 kph

4



moderate breeze  
= 25 kph

5



fresh breeze  
= 35 kph

6



strong breeze  
= 45 kph

### The Beaufort Scale

7



moderate gale  
= 56 kph

8



fresh gale  
= 68 kph

9



strong gale  
= 81 kph

10



whole gale  
= 94 kph

11



storm  
= 110 kph

12



hurricane  
= 118 kph

There are different scales to measure stronger winds, like tornadoes and hurricanes. These scales go from 1 to 5. Level 1 tornadoes can push cars off the road, and level 5 tornadoes can lift a house off the ground! Level 5 hurricanes can damage a lot of things, for example, they can pull up trees and destroy buildings. A really big hurricane can be as big as Australia!



Go to pages 48–49 for activities.

# 8

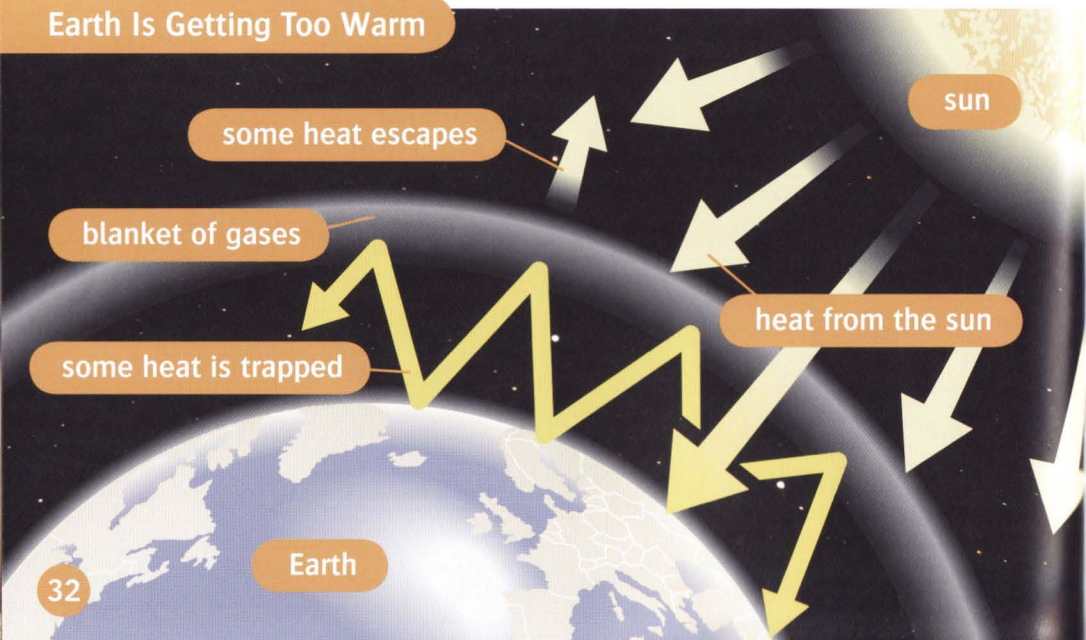
## In the Future

Earth is getting warmer. The climate has become warmer and colder in the past, but scientists think that it's now getting warmer faster than ever before and that it will stay warmer in the future.

### Why Is the Climate Changing?

Earth gets heat from the sun. Some heat escapes, but some is trapped by a blanket of gases like carbon dioxide. This keeps Earth warm enough for us to live here. It's called the greenhouse effect. The problem now is that our vehicles, factories, and power stations have made a lot of carbon dioxide. So we're trapping too much heat, and Earth is getting too warm!

#### Earth Is Getting Too Warm







## Weather in the Future

More heat means that there will be more rain, stronger winds, and storms in some places, and more droughts and famines in others. It also means that the snow and ice on mountains and around the Poles will melt, so sea levels will rise. If all the glaciers in the world melt, sea levels will rise more than 60 meters, and places near the ocean will go underwater! Ocean ice also helps keep Earth cool. If it melts, Earth will get even warmer!

## What Can We Do?

It's probably too late to stop the climate changing, but we can help to slow it down. We must make less carbon dioxide to help to keep Earth cool. We can use our cars less – we can walk or ride a bicycle. We can also plant more trees. Trees use carbon dioxide to make food, so if there are more trees, there will be less carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

## Using Energy from the Weather

We need electricity, but we don't have to make it in power stations. Instead, we can make it from energy from the weather. Wind energy and solar energy are called green energy. Green energy makes less carbon dioxide.

To make electricity, we can use strong winds to turn windmills that power turbines. Lots of windmills together are called a wind farm. Wind farms are often on hills or out in the ocean because the winds are stronger there.

### A Wind Farm





Solar panels can change light from the sun into electricity. This electricity can power small machines or heat homes. People use solar panels all around the world.



Solar Panels

The sun can even power cars and boats! Solar-powered vehicles can be expensive, but they don't make carbon dioxide. People keep finding new ways to use our amazing weather!



In 1996, Kenichi Horie from Japan crossed the Pacific Ocean in this solar-powered boat.



Go to pages 50–51 for activities.

# 1

# What Is Weather?

← Read pages 4–7.

## 1 Write the words.

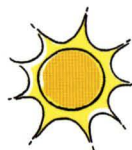
sun sky moon cloud **rain** stars



1 rain



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_



6 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 Around Earth, there is a blanket of **water** / **air** called the atmosphere.
- 2 Weather is the different conditions in the **atmosphere** / **ocean**.
- 3 Most weather happens because of the **moon** / **sun**, and air pressure.
- 4 An area of warm or cold air is called an air **mass** / **pressure**.
- 5 The air is **falling** / **pushing** down on you.
- 6 **High** / **Low** air pressure brings rain and wind.



**3 Write complete sentences. Use these words.**

plant   avoid   ~~build~~   crops   ~~homes~~   storms   drive

- 1 We need to know about the weather, so that we can  
build the right type of homes.
- 2 Drivers need to know about the weather, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Farmers need to know about the weather, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Pilots need to know about the weather, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4 Correct the sentences.**

- 1 A good way to predict the weather is to look at the stars.  
A good way to predict the weather is to look at  
the clouds.
- 2 Today, scientists use cows to predict the weather.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 In the past, people watched food to predict the weather.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Some people think that if animals stand up, it will rain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 People believe that a red sky in the morning means  
good weather the next day.  
\_\_\_\_\_

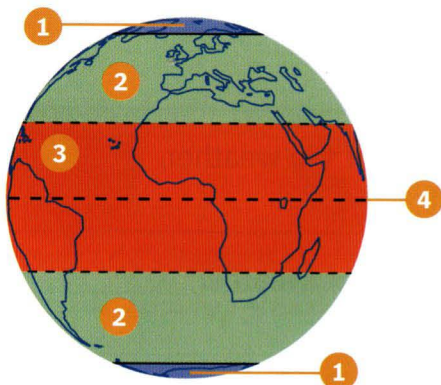
# 2

## World Weather

← Read pages 8–11.

equator    hot climates  
cold climates    temperate climates

### 1 Write the words.



1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Complete the chart. Write five more places.

Hot Climate	Cold Climate	Temperate Climate
_____	<u>Antarctica</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____

### 3 Write *weather* or *climate*.

- the usual weather for a place climate
- this changes all the time \_\_\_\_\_
- this stays the same most of the time \_\_\_\_\_
- there are different types of this because of the sun \_\_\_\_\_
- sun, rain, and snow are types of this \_\_\_\_\_
- this changes every season \_\_\_\_\_



#### 4 Complete the sentences.

winter short ~~animals~~ four  
spring summer water coats

- 1 Plants and animals adapt to where they live.
- 2 Animals in cold climates have thick \_\_\_\_\_ to keep them warm.
- 3 Plants with \_\_\_\_\_ roots can grow in cold climates.
- 4 Few plants can grow in deserts because there isn't enough \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 We have colder weather in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 We have warmer weather in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Temperate climates have \_\_\_\_\_ seasons.
- 8 The season after winter and before summer is called \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 5 Order the words.

- 1 place. / usual / a / climate / the / The / is / weather / for  
The climate is the usual weather for a place.
- 2 warm / Land / ocean. / faster / gets / the / than  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 hottest / have / the / weather. / Plains  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Plains / dry / have / winters. / summers / cold, / hot / and  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 3

## All About Clouds

← Read pages 12–15.

### 1 Match. Then write sentences.

Cirrus clouds are

Cumulus clouds are

Stratus clouds are

Mist is

Fog is

low, thin blankets of cloud.

thick cloud near the ground.

made of ice crystals.

clouds that often bring good weather.

very thin cloud.

1 Cirrus clouds are made of ice crystals.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Order the words.

1 elephants. A / can / cloud / be / as / heavy / 100 / as

\_\_\_\_\_

2 of / are / Clouds / of / millions / water. / of / made / drops

\_\_\_\_\_

3 many / different / shapes. / are / There / cloud

\_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Complete the sentences.

lightning electricity clouds  
thunderstorms thunder tall

- 1 When hot air rises on a hot day, it can change into storm \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Water drops inside clouds hit each other and this makes \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Electricity from the cloud makes bright flashes of light called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 When the hot air around lightning moves away, it makes \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 There are 40,000 \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
- 6 Lightning usually hits \_\_\_\_\_ things.

### 4 Answer the questions.

- 1 How can you know how far away a storm is?  
Count the seconds between lightning and thunder.
- 2 What are the most common types of lightning?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How often does lightning hit the Empire State Building?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 How hot is lightning?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Have you ever seen a thunderstorm?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 4

## Here Comes the Rain



Read pages 16–19.

- 1** Write the colors in the correct order.  
Then color the rainbow.

yellow ~~red~~ violet green orange indigo blue

1 red

2 \_\_\_\_\_

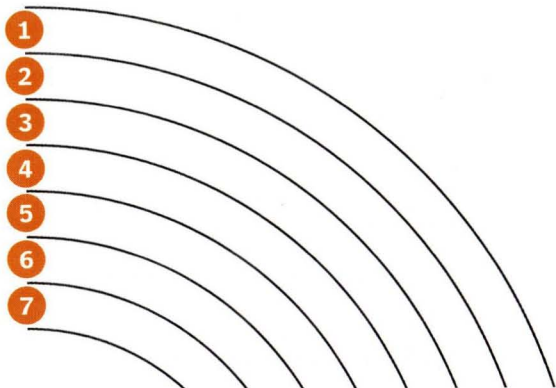
3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_



- 2** Complete the sentences.

animals overflow fertile deserts soil year

- 1 If there is heavy rain, rivers sometimes \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Floods can happen anywhere, even in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Floods can destroy crops and kill \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 In Bangladesh there are floods almost every \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Mud from a flood makes soil more \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Bangladesh has the most fertile \_\_\_\_\_ in the world!



**3 Match. Then write sentences in order.**

The sun heats

Water vapor rises

Some water changes

Rain falls into

Drops of water fall

Water vapor cools

rivers and oceans.

the water.

and changes back into water.

into the sky.

into water vapor.

from the clouds as rain.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Answer the questions.**

1 How many seasons are there in tropical climates?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Why do people need the monsoon rains?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Write two things that floods can do.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Have you ever seen a flood?

\_\_\_\_\_

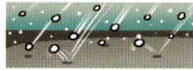
# 5

## Cold Weather

← Read pages 20–23.

### 1 Write the words.

snow hail sleet ice



1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Match.

- 1 biggest hailstone ever recorded
- 2 parts of a snowflake
- 3 the temperature when water freezes
- 4 30% of Earth covered in ice
- 5 some ice has been near the Poles
- 6 coldest temperature ever recorded

- 0°C
- 11,000 years ago
- minus 89°C
- two million years
- 6
- 18 centimeters

### 3 Number the sentences in order.

Rising air carries water drops up into the sky.

Hailstones are pushed back up by the rising air.

Hailstones become heavier than the air.

Heavy hailstones fall to the ground.

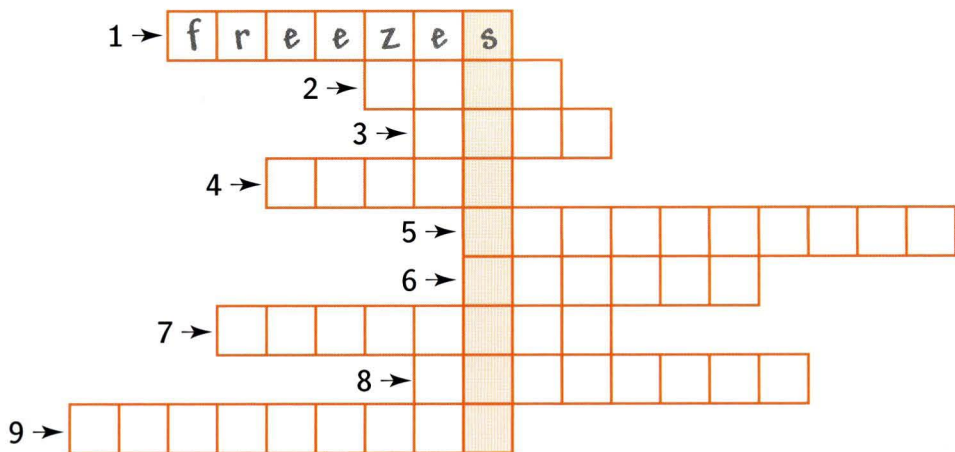
Water drops freeze and form hailstones.

Another layer of ice forms on the hailstones.

Small hailstones start to fall.

1

#### 4 Complete the puzzle. Write the secret word.



- 1 Water \_\_\_ below 0 degrees centigrade.
- 2 Rain changes into this below 0 degrees centigrade.
- 3 If your fingers get very cold, they can go \_\_\_.
- 4 If the temperature near the ground is above 0 degrees centigrade, snow changes into \_\_\_.
- 5 When water drops freeze high up in the air they form \_\_\_.
- 6 In a whiteout, \_\_\_ can crash.
- 7 When you can't see where the sky meets the ground, it's called a \_\_\_.
- 8 A heavy snowstorm is called a \_\_\_.
- 9 A lot of snow that falls down mountains.

The secret word is:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

#### 5 Write about blizzards. Use these words.

whiteout   cover   power cables   cars  
fall down   buildings   electricity

---



---



---



# 6

## Hot Weather



Read pages 24–27.

### 1 Correct the sentences.

1 Weather is coldest in places near the equator.

---

2 Places with more than 25 centimeters of rain are called deserts.

---

3 Winds in the desert blow from the ocean to the land.

---

4 Nights in the desert can be very hot.

---

5 The Atacama Desert once had no sun for 400 years.

---

### 2 What happens in a drought? Write *true* or *false*.

1 There is no water. true

2 Rivers and lakes dry up.                     

3 There is heavy rain.                     

4 Trees become dry.                     

5 There is lots of food.                     

6 Crops can't grow.

### 3 Find and write the hot weather words.

h	d	e	s	e	r	t	r	t
o	s	w	e	a	t	c	a	f
f	i	r	e	t	q	u	d	a
s	a	n	d	s	t	o	r	m
h	h	s	h	o	v	t	y	i
u	u	u	h	o	t	e	n	n
m	n	n	t	h	o	e	p	e
s	h	u	m	i	d	f	i	r
a	r	d	r	o	u	g	h	t
f	x	a	v	e	e	l	s	z
y	a	o	q	g	u	d	l	f

- 1 desert
- 2 s
- 3 s
- 4 h
- 5 h
- 6 f
- 7 s
- 8 d
- 9 f
- 10 d

### 4 Answer the questions.

1 What can happen after a hot day in the desert?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 How high are most sandstorms?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 How long can sandstorms last?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 What do we call the amount of water vapor in the air?

\_\_\_\_\_

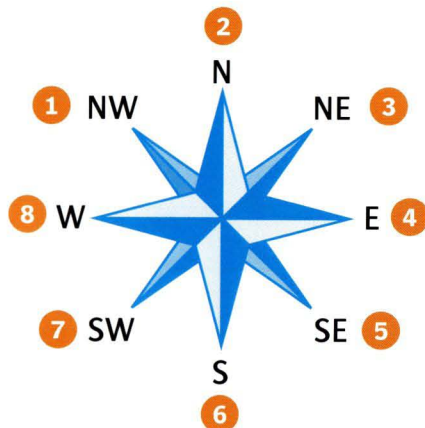
5 Why can't people cool down in hot weather?

\_\_\_\_\_

# 7 Windy Weather

← Read pages 28–31.

## 1 Write the words



1 north-west

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

8 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Complete the chart.

3 light breeze    15 strong breeze    storm  
118 fresh gale    hurricane    35 81

### The Beaufort Scale

0	calm = 0 kph	7	moderate gale = 56 kph
1	light air = ____ kph	8	_____ = 68 kph
2	_____ = 9 kph	9	strong gale = ____ kph
3	gentle breeze = ____ kph	10	whole gale = 94 kph
4	moderate breeze = 25 kph	11	_____ = 110 kph
5	fresh breeze = ____ kph	12	_____ = ____ kph
6	_____ = 45 kph		



### 3 Write *hurricane* or *tornado*.

- 1 starts as a thunderstorm \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 spins down from a thundercloud \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 is also called a twister \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 is also called a cyclone \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 can last for a week \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 only lasts a few minutes \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 the fastest winds on Earth \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 has a center called an eye \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 is like a funnel \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 can change direction very quickly \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Complete the sentences.

buildings ground things Australia  
cars house damage road

- 1 Strong winds can \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 A level 1 tornado can push \_\_\_\_\_ off the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 A level 5 tornado can lift a \_\_\_\_\_ off the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Level 5 hurricanes can destroy \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 A big hurricane can be as big as \_\_\_\_\_.

### 5 Write about storms in your country.

---

---

---

# 8

## In the Future

← Read pages 32–35.

### 1 Circle the correct words.

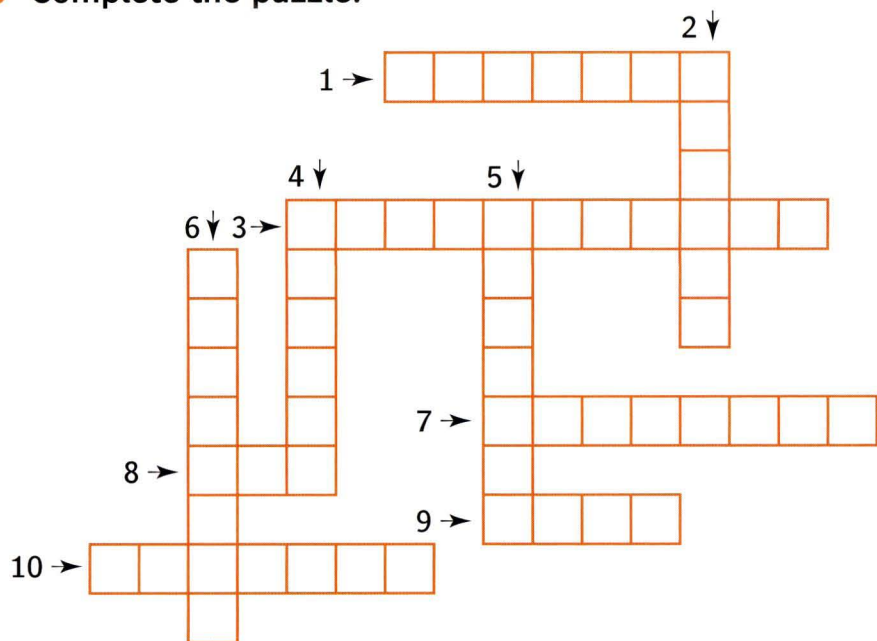
- 1 Earth's climate is getting **warmer** / **colder**.
- 2 Scientists think that it's getting warmer **slower** / **faster** than before.
- 3 The sun heats **Earth** / **the moon**.
- 4 Factories make too much **air** / **gas** called carbon dioxide.
- 5 Carbon dioxide traps the **heat** / **light**.
- 6 It's **bad** / **good** to trap some heat.

### 2 Complete the chart.

walk levels go heat less power stations energy  
storms droughts bicycle famines warm trees

Why is the climate changing?	What will happen in the future?	What can we do?
Factories and _____ make a lot of carbon dioxide. We are trapping too much _____ and Earth is getting too _____.	There will be more _____. More places will have _____, and there could be _____. If sea _____ rise, some places could _____ underwater.	We can make _____ carbon dioxide. We can plant more _____. We can _____ or ride a _____. We can use green _____.

### 3 Complete the puzzle.



- 1 The usual weather for a place is its \_\_\_\_.
- 2 Green \_\_\_\_ makes less carbon dioxide.
- 3 Energy from the sun is called \_\_\_\_.
- 4 The season after winter and before summer.
- 5 When sun and rain happen at the same time you can get a \_\_\_\_.
- 6 Lots of windmills together \_\_\_\_.
- 7 A heavy snowstorm \_\_\_\_.
- 8 A thick, low cloud.
- 9 A lot of carbon dioxide is making Earth too \_\_\_\_.
- 10 The fastest wind on Earth.

### 4 Write about the weather where you live.

---

---

---



# Project 1

## A Weather Report

- 1 Record the weather where you live for a week. Write notes in the chart.



Day	Temperature at _ o'clock	Wind Direction	Types of Weather
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

- 2 How was the weather? Write a report.
- 3 Display your report.

# World Weather

- 1** Find some world weather information in the newspaper or on the Internet.
- 2** Choose a city in your country and three more cities in different countries. Then write notes.



My city:  
Country:  
Date:  
Temperature:  
Rainfall:  
Other information:



City 1:  
Country:  
Date:  
Temperature:  
Rainfall:  
Other information:



City 2:  
Country:  
Date:  
Temperature:  
Rainfall:  
Other information:



City 3:  
Country:  
Date:  
Temperature:  
Rainfall:  
Other information:

- 3** Write about the information. Was the weather the same or different? Which city was the hottest, the coldest, had the most rain?
- 4** Display your world weather information.

# Glossary

Here are some words used in this book, and you can check what they mean. Use a dictionary to check other new words.

**amount** how much there is of something

**area** part of a space or a place

**avoid** to stay away from

**become** to change into, to start to be

**believe** to think that something is true

**blanket** a piece of material that covers something

**blow** to move (for wind)

**boil** to heat a liquid like water until it's so hot it changes into steam

**breathe** to take in and let out air through your nose and mouth

**breeze** a light wind

**bright** with lots of light

**calm** not wild (for weather)

**carry** to take

**center** the middle

**change** to become different; to make something different

**clear up** to make clean

**coat** a name for an animal's fur or skin

**common** usual, seen in many places

**condition** how something is

**cool down** to become cooler

**cover** to put something over something; to be over something

**crop** a plant that a farmer grows

**damage** to make something bad or weak

**dangerous** can damage something or someone

**dead** not living any more

**destroy** to damage something very badly

**die** to stop living

**difficult** not easy

**direction** the position something or someone moves toward

**drop** a very small amount of liquid

**electricity** a type of energy

**energy** we need energy to move and grow

**enough** how much we want or need

**escape** to get away from something

**evaporate** to change from liquid into gas (for example when water changes into steam)

**famine** when there isn't enough food for a long time

**far** not near

**flash** a bright light that shines for a very short time

**flood** where there is a lot of water where it is usually dry

**forest** a place with a lot of trees

**form** to make or be made

**freeze** to be less than 0 degrees centigrade; to change into ice

**fresh** strong and cold (for wind)

**frozen** so cold that it is very hard

**gale** a strong wind

**gas** it's not a solid or a liquid; like air

**gentle** not very strong (for weather)

**glacier** a large amount of ice, formed by snow in mountains

**ground** the land that we stand on

**grow** to get bigger

**half** one of two parts

**heat** something that is hot; to make something hot

**humid** warm and wet

**hurricane** a very strong wind

**ice crystal** a small piece of ice

**icy** very cold, made of ice

**information** what you know about something

**inland** far from the ocean

**kill** to make something or someone die

**lake** a big area of water

**last** to happen for an amount of time

**leaf** (*plural leaves*) the flat green part of a plant

**lightning** a flash of very bright light in the sky, made by electricity



**lost** when you don't know where you are

**low** not high

**measure** to find out how big or small something is

**melt** to make something so hot that it changes into a liquid

**mild** not too hot or too cold

**mixture** different things together

**moderate** between light and strong (for wind)

**move** to go from one place to another

**mud** wet soil

**nature** all plants, animals, and things that are not made by people

**noise** a loud sound

**numb** so cold that you can't feel anything

**ocean** the salt water that covers most of Earth

**once** one time

**overflow** to rise over the top of something (for a liquid)

**park ranger** someone who works in a park

**past** many years ago

**plant** to put plants or seeds in the soil to make them grow

**power** to use energy to make something move or work

**power cable** it carries electricity from place to place

**power station** a building where electricity is made

**predict** to say what will happen

**problem** something that is difficult

**process** when things happen one after another

**protect** to keep something safe from danger

**push down** to make something move down

**push up** to make something move up

**reach** to get to

**record** to write down what happens

**rise** to go up

**river** water on land that goes to the ocean

**rock** a very hard, natural material

**root** the part of a plant that holds it in the soil

**safely** not being damaged

**satellite** a machine that goes into space

**sea level** how high the water is in the sea or ocean

**second** it measures time; there are 60 seconds in a minute

**seed** what a plant grows from

**shape** for example, circle, square, triangle

**sheep** (*plural sheep*) an animal used for meat and wool

**sky** (*plural skies*) where the clouds and sun are

**soil** the ground that plants grow in

**solar** from the sun

**spin** to turn around quickly

**steam** the hot gas that water makes when it boils

**store** to keep something to use later

**storm** very bad weather

**strength** how strong something is

**suck up** to lift something up into the air

**survive** to live

**sweat** water that comes out of our bodies when we get very hot

**temperature** how hot or cold something is

**thick** not thin

**tiny** very small

**trap** to keep something in a place where it can't escape

**vacuum cleaner** a machine that picks up dust and dirt from floors

**vehicle** something for transporting goods or people

**warn** to tell people when something bad is going to happen

**way** how to do something

**weather forecaster** someone who tells us how the weather will be

**whole** all of something

**without** not having something; not doing something



# Oxford Read and Discover

Series Editor: Hazel Geatches • CLIL Adviser: John Clegg

**Oxford Read and Discover** graded readers are at four levels, from 3 to 6, suitable for students from age 8 and older. They cover many topics within three subject areas, and can support English across the curriculum, or Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL).

Available for each reader:

- Audio CD Pack (book & audio CD)
- Activity Book

For Teacher's Notes & CLIL Guidance go to  
[www.oup.com/elt/teacher/readanddiscover](http://www.oup.com/elt/teacher/readanddiscover)

Subject Area Level	The World of Science & Technology	The Natural World	The World of Arts & Social Studies
<b>3</b> 600 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How We Make Products</li><li>• Sound and Music</li><li>• Super Structures</li><li>• Your Five Senses</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amazing Minibeasts</li><li>• Animals in the Air</li><li>• Life in Rainforests</li><li>• Wonderful Water</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Festivals Around the World</li><li>• Free Time Around the World</li></ul>
<b>4</b> 750 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All About Plants</li><li>• How to Stay Healthy</li><li>• Machines Then and Now</li><li>• Why We Recycle</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All About Desert Life</li><li>• All About Ocean Life</li><li>• Animals at Night</li><li>• Incredible Earth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Animals in Art</li><li>• Wonders of the Past</li></ul>
<b>5</b> 900 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Materials to Products</li><li>• Medicine Then and Now</li><li>• Transportation Then and Now</li><li>• Wild Weather</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All About Islands</li><li>• Animal Life Cycles</li><li>• Exploring Our World</li><li>• Great Migrations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homes Around the World</li><li>• Our World in Art</li></ul>
<b>6</b> 1,050 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cells and Microbes</li><li>• Clothes Then and Now</li><li>• Incredible Energy</li><li>• Your Amazing Body</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All About Space</li><li>• Caring for Our Planet</li><li>• Earth Then and Now</li><li>• Wonderful Ecosystems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helping Around the World</li><li>• Food Around the World</li></ul>

For younger students, **Dolphin Readers** Levels Starter, 1, and 2 are available.

